IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice and add new claims 18-56, as shown in the listing of claims below.

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

18. (New) A communication system comprising:

a first wireless network;

a vehicle having a power supply associated therewith;

a plurality of network devices wirelessly communicating with one another to form a second wireless network operating as a subnetwork in the first wireless network; and

at least a first network device of the plurality of network devices being adapted to receive power from the power supply associated with the vehicle, and participating on the first wireless network to provide access for a second network device of the plurality of network devices to the first wireless network.

19. (New) The communication system of claim 18 wherein the first network device of the plurality of network devices comprises an access server.

20. (New) The communication system of claim 19 wherein the access server is adapted to participate as a slave device in the first wireless network pursuant to a first communication protocol and as a master device in the second wireless network pursuant to a second communication protocol.

21. (New) The communication system of claim 20 wherein the access server resolves conflicts between the first and second communication protocols.

22. (New) The communication system of claim 18 wherein at least the first network device of the plurality of network devices participates as a slave device in the first wireless network pursuant to a first communication protocol and as a master device in the second wireless network pursuant to a second communication protocol.

23. (New) The communication system of claim 18 wherein one of the plurality of network devices other than the first network device of the plurality of network devices participates as a slave device in the first wireless network pursuant to a first communication protocol and as a slave device in the second wireless network pursuant to a second communication protocol.

24. (New) A communication system comprising:

a wireless premises network;

a wireless peripheral subnetwork comprising a plurality of network devices, each having a relatively shorter range than the wireless premises network,

a mobile network device capable of communicating with the wireless premises network and the wireless peripheral subnetwork; and

a vehicle having a power supply associated with the vehicle, the vehicle configured to receive the mobile network device in mounting relation therewith, thereby providing the mobile network device access to the power supply associated with the vehicle.

25. (New) The communication system of claim 24 wherein the mobile network device participates on the wireless peripheral subnetwork when the mobile network device is within the relatively shorter range of the wireless peripheral subnetwork.

26. (New) The communication system of claim 24 further composing a peripheral device disposed on the vehicle that is adapted to participate in the wireless peripheral subnetwork.

27. (New) The communication system of claim 24 wherein the mobile network device participates as a slave device in the wireless premises network pursuant to a first communication protocol while participating as a master device in the wireless peripheral subnetwork pursuant to a second communication protocol.

28. (New) The communication system of claim 27 wherein the mobile network device resolves conflicts between the first and second communication protocols.

29. (New) The communication system of claim 24 wherein the mobile network device enters a state of low power consumption when not communicating with either the wireless premises network or the wireless peripheral subnetwork.

30. (New) The communication system of claim 24, with the wireless premises network having a first plurality of network devices and the wireless peripheral subnetwork having a second plurality of network devices such that when within range of one of the second plurality of network devices, the mobile network device participates as a master device in the wireless peripheral subnetwork and when within range of one of the first plurality of network devices, the mobile network device participates as a slave device in the wireless premises network.

31. (New) The communication system of claim 24 further comprising:

a network device independent of the mobile network device;

the network device identifying a range value indicative of the distance between the network device and the mobile network device;

the network device transmitting the range value to the mobile network device; and the mobile network device, upon receipt of the range value, identifying an appropriate data rate for subsequent transmission to the network device.

32. (New) The communication system of claim 24 further comprising:

a network device independent of the mobile network device;

the network device identifying a range value indicative of the distance between the network device and the mobile network device; and

the network device indicating to the mobile network device an appropriate rate for subsequent data transmission to the network device.

33. (New) The communication system of claim 24 further comprising:

a premises network device independent of the mobile network device;

the premises network device identifying a range value indicative of the distance between

the premises network device and the mobile network device;

the premises network device transmitting the range value to the mobile network device;

the mobile network device identifying battery parameter information; and

the mobile network device, based on the received range value and battery parameter information, identifying an appropriate data rate and power level for subsequent transmission to the premises network device.

34. (New) A communication system, comprising:

a wireless premises network;

a mobile network device capable of communicating with the wireless premises network;

a vehicle comprising a power supply associated with the vehicle and a peripheral device coupled to the power supply associated with the vehicle, wherein the mobile network device and the peripheral device communicate wirelessly; and

the vehicle being configured to receive the mobile network device in mounting relation therewith, thereby providing the mobile network device access to the power supply associated with the vehicle.

35. (New) The communication system of claim 34 wherein the mobile network device wirelessly communicates using lower power transmissions to the peripheral device, and using higher power transmissions when communicating with the wireless premises network.

36. (New) The communication system of claim 34 wherein the mobile network device conducts wireless communication at selected power levels.

37. (New) A communication system comprising:

a first wireless network;

a vehicle having a battery power supply;

a plurality of network data communication devices together forming a second wireless network operating as a subnetwork in the first wireless network; and

at least a first data communication network device of the plurality of data communication network devices participating on the first wireless network to provide access for a second data communication network device of the plurality of data communication network devices to the first wireless network.

38. (New) A network device for use in connection with an associated vehicle, comprising:

at least one wireless transceiver adapted to communicate with devices on a first wireless network, the at least one wireless transceiver further adapted to communicate with devices on a second wireless network operating as a subnetwork in the first wireless network;

the network device being adapted to receive power from a power supply associated with the vehicle.

39. (New) The network device of claim 38 wherein the network device comprises an access server.

40. (New) The network device of claim 39 wherein the access server is adapted to participate as a slave device in the first wireless network pursuant to a first communication protocol and as a master device in the second wireless network pursuant to a second communication protocol.

41. (New) The network device of claim 40 wherein the access server resolves conflicts between the first and second communication protocols.

42. (New) The network device of claim 38 wherein the network device participates as a slave device in the first wireless network pursuant to a first communication protocol and as a master device in the second wireless network pursuant to a second communication protocol.

43. (New) The network device of claim 38 wherein one of the devices on the second wireless network participates as a slave device in the first wireless network pursuant to a first communication protocol and as a slave device in the second wireless network pursuant to a

second communication protocol.

44. (New) A mobile network device for use in connection with an associated vehicle, comprising:

at least one wireless transceiver adapted to communicate with a wireless network, the at least one wireless transceiver further adapted to communicate with a wireless peripheral subnetwork comprising a plurality of network devices, each having a relatively shorter range than the wireless network;

the mobile network device being mountable on the vehicle in such a way as to provide the mobile network device access to a power supply associated with the vehicle.

45. (New) The mobile network device of claim 44 wherein the mobile network device participates on the wireless peripheral subnetwork when the mobile network device is within the relatively shorter range of the wireless peripheral subnetwork.

46. (New) The mobile network device of claim 44 wherein the mobile network device participates as a slave device in the wireless premises network pursuant to a first communication protocol while participating as a master device in the wireless peripheral subnetwork pursuant to a second communication protocol.

47. (New) The mobile network device of claim 46 wherein the mobile network device resolves conflicts between the first and second communication protocols.

48. (New) The mobile network device of claim 44 wherein the mobile network device enters a state of low power consumption when not communicating with either the wireless premises network or the wireless peripheral subnetwork.

49. (New) The mobile network device of claim 44, wherein the wireless premises network has a first plurality of network devices and the wireless peripheral subnetwork has a second plurality of network devices such that when within range of one of the second plurality of network devices, the mobile network device participates as a master device in the

wireless peripheral subnetwork and when within range of one of the first plurality of network devices, the mobile network device participates as a slave device in the wireless premises network.

50. (New) The mobile network device of claim 44 wherein a network device independent of the mobile network device identifies a range value indicative of the distance between the network device and the mobile network device and transmits the range value to the mobile network device, and wherein the mobile network device, upon receipt of the range value, identifies an appropriate data rate for subsequent transmission to the network device.

51. (New) The mobile network device of claim 44 wherein a network device independent of the mobile network device identifies a range value indicative of the distance between the network device and the mobile network device and indicates to the mobile network device an appropriate rate for subsequent data transmission to the network device, and wherein the mobile network device subsequently transmits data to the network device at the rate indicated by the network device.

52. (New) The mobile network device of claim 44 wherein a network device independent of the mobile network device identifies a range value indicative of the distance between the network device and the mobile network device and transmits the range value to the mobile network device, wherein the mobile network device identifies battery parameter information, and wherein the mobile network device, based on the received range value and battery parameter information, identifies an appropriate data rate and power level for subsequent transmission to the premises network device.

53. (New) A mobile network device for use in connection with an associated vehicle, comprising:

at least one wireless transceiver adapted to communicate with a wireless network, the at least one wireless transceiver further adapted to communicate with a peripheral device coupled to a power supply associated with the vehicle; and

the network device being mountable on the vehicle in such a way as to provide the

network device access to the power supply associated with the vehicle.

54. (New) The mobile network device of claim 53 wherein the mobile network device wirelessly communicates using lower power transmissions to the peripheral device, and using higher power transmissions when communicating with the wireless network.

55. (New) The mobile network device of claim 53 wherein the mobile network device conducts wireless communication at selected power levels.

56. (New) A data communication network device for use in connection with an associated vehicle, comprising:

at least one wireless transceiver adapted to communicate with devices on a first wireless network, the at least one wireless transceiver further adapted to communicate with devices on a second wireless network operating as a subnetwork in the first wireless network;

the data communication network device participating on the first wireless network to provide access to the first network for a second data communication device on the second wireless network.